

Preston-Connelly House  
CE- 906  
Near Rock Springs  
Private

1807-1810

Joseph Preston of London Grove Township, Chester County Pa. sold to his son, William Preston of Octoraro , two hundred and eighteen acres in March of 1801, which bordered the Octoraro Creek just south of the Md.-Pa. Mason Dixon Line. (JS 22/473)

William Preston, along with many other Pennsylvania farmers were moving south into this area for less congested farmland in the early 19th century. Heavy Quaker settlements to the east in Nottingham and rich relatively unsettled farmland provided the incentive to move south. William Preston did not wait long to construct a substantial dwelling because by 1807-1810 he had a two story four bay by two room fieldstone farmhouse. Presently a coat of pebbled stucco implanted with colored glass fragments covers the fieldstone, however two dates were worked into the stucco on the lower left hand corner of the main house. 1929 probably dates the stucco application and covering of the earlier 1807 date which also appears and is most likely the date of construction. William Preston was a benevolent Quaker for a 1886 plat. of his grandson William B. Preston's land locates the Octoraro Quaker Meeting<sup>lot</sup> which was donated by William by William Preston in the early 19th century. [William Preston died in 1839 and left his plantation to his son Joseph, who in turn sold to William J. Preston in 1865. (DS 2/230) ] He<sup>also</sup> guaranteed lifetime rights to his wife Mary...

"It is also my will that my widow Mary Preston have and enjoy peaceably the parlor, the room we sleep in and the room over the parlor together with full priveledge for her own use also of the kitchen to do her own work in and the cellar and pump..." (Register of Wills B 9/108)

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY file # 888

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

PRESTON HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

Connelly Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Corner of Sterrett and Connelly Roads ( northeast )

CITY, TOWN

Cenowingo

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Cecil

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Jack and Carol Connelly

Telephone #: 658-5227

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Connelly Road

CITY, TOWN

Cenowingo

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21918

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Liber #: RRC 46

Folio #: 41

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

*PRESTON*  
The ~~Connelly~~ <sup>A</sup>Connelly Farmhouse is a early 19th century, ~~modified~~ <sup>German</sup> three room plan on Connelly Road, a mile north of Route 1. The house is located one hundred yards from the road and on the southern slope of a small hill. The main facade faces south while the main gable runs on a northeast/southwest axis.

The structure seems to have been built in three parts. The main block is a 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> story 3 room ~~German~~ plan structure of early 19th century. ~~Date~~, with four bays across and two bays deep. A ell addition extends to the north (rear) of the main block and is two bays across with one room deep. Another addition was connected to the northeast gable end and continued the same roof line for an additional two bays. The entire field-stone structure has been covered with grey stucco with small pieces of stone and glass set-in for decoration. On the lower southeastern corner are two dates, 1929 and 1807. The 1929 probably referring to when the stucco was added and 1807 may possibly be a date that was covered over when the stuccoing took place. Single story shed porches are located on the front and north side of the ell. A single story shed kitchen was attached to the north gable end of the building. The structure rests on an uncoursed stone foundation and is capped with a medium sloped slate roof.

The main facade is a total of six bays across, the first four from the west being the main block. The second and third bays are entrances with single pane sash windows flanking the doors. The trim is plain. One early 19th century door with long strap hinges remains on the second bay entrance while the other door is not in use. A transom is located over head. A later box cornice extends across the main facade. The screened-in porch has a composition tile roof, which is supported with doric columns.

The east gable end is fairly plain with a single story stuccoed addition and two 4 pane attic lights that flank the stuccoed stack. A plain barge board protects the end of the roof.

The west gable is rather plain except there are two 1/1 sash on each floor in addition to the two four pane attic windows that flank the chimney. The stack above the roof ~~is~~ is constructed of unstuccoed stretcher bond brick.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CE-906  
The ell addition is basically plain with 1/1 sash located symmetrically. An entrance is located in the northern bay of the east side. There are two small attic sash that flank the rear wing stack.

The interior has been slightly altered with the removal of a couple walls and the widening of an entrance. The wall between the front and back room has been removed, However the two corner fireplaces remain. The front room's mantel is still intact. The mantel designs are very basic with plain pilasters that project slightly. The frieze has a projecting central block and two end blocks above the pilasters. These support a plain cornice and thick mantel shelf. The mantel has been taken out of the back room. The ~~entrance~~<sup>door</sup> between rooms has been widened with tapered supporting posts.

*in the house.* The northeast parlor is the largest room with a fireplace against the end wall. The mantel is a bit more elaborate than any others. A flat panelled closet is located next to the fireplace. It has a molded cornice with a ~~central~~<sup>projecting</sup> keystone. The stair is located along the back wall. The newel has been replaced. The wing to the rear has been somewhat remodeled but an inclosed stair does rise from the kitchen. A large cooking fireplace is located in the end gable wall. The first floor of the addition to the east has been totally remodeled.

The house is part of a modern farm with a few old farm buildings and some very recent ones. A notable brick smoke-house is located to the north of the main house. It is a common bond brick structure resting on a stone foundation and covered with a slate roof. A small brick stack rises out of the back end. There is a front door in the middle of the main facade.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The main farmhouse although somewhat altered from its intended appearance is extremely significant since it is <sup>three room plan</sup> another example of the ~~late~~ 19th century usage of this ~~modified German Plan~~ <sup>Quaker Plan</sup>. ~~This single-sized plan is much more prevalent than the untouched asymmetrical German House type.~~ Even though the interior has been modified and some interior detailing has been removed, enough of the original does remain to reconstruct the interior room arrangement. The interior mantels and woodwork are not superb but never the less good examples of late Federally influenced design.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Paul B. Touart Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Cecil County Committee

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN

Elkton

DATE

9/22/78

TELEPHONE

398-7568

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## PRESTON-CONNELLY FARM

RRC 46/41 Nannie Lee Connelly (widow) Lillian and  
 July 27, 1949 William Cus~~ten~~ten, Edward Connelly, Nancy  
 and Raney Read, Francis and Mark Connelly  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  interest To John M, Fred P. and Paul Y. Connelly

WEB 10/47 George P. Connelly and Nannie L. Connelly  
 March 7, 1938 to John, Fred, Paul Connelly  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  interest in 3 parcels of land

SRA 21/233 \*\*\* 1. On the old road leading from Rising Sun  
 220 acres to Conowingo...Being same land that was  
 conveyed from Edward C. Wilson to George  
 Connelly

SRA 21/233 2. East side of public road leading from  
 May 18, 1934 old Conowingo state road to new Conowingo  
 state road  
 93 acres Edward C. Wilson to George Connelly

March 21, 1934 3. Bounded on the north by George P. Connelly  
 East - Octorara Creek - South by Roscoe  
 Rawlings - West by George Connelly  
 Lavinia R. Atkinson to George P. Connelly

SRA17/445 \*\*\* George P. Connelly to Edward C. Wilson  
 Dec. 30, 1932

HWL 14/475 Last will and testament of Henry Graybeal  
 (Executors W. Arthur and Mildred Graybeal)  
 to  
 March 13, 1925 George and Nannie Connelly

WGP 3/434 William Nesbitt  
 to  
 Nov. 1, 1919 Henry Graybeal  
 220 acres (prop. description)  
 Excepting 1 acre called Meeting House Lot...

CK 6/465 Howard Bradley  
 Sept. 19, 1913 to  
 William Nesbitt  
 220 A.<sup>ex</sup> Meeting House Lot

CK 6/465 Robert C. Shackory (attorney)

PRESTON-CONNELLY FARM

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JTG 8/451	Franklin T. Mackie
	to
Nov. 23, 1895	Howard Bradley
	220 Acres excepting Meeting House Lot
JTG 8/267	Robert C. Thackery (Attorney)
	to Franklin Mackie
	220 Acres - Meeting House Lot
JAD 14/238	Joseph P. Culter
	to
1887	Robert Thackery (attorney)
	Default of Mortgage
JAD 13/431	L. Marshall Haines and W. Evans (trustees)
	to
4/6/1887	Joseph Culter
JAD 7/493	Equity Case 1251
6/21/1884	
Plat and survey	Deborah C. Preston - Complainants
	Ester R. Preston - Defendants
1886	William J. Preston died insolvent thus sending property to heirs with undivided interest in farm.. Only equitable way to settle was for farm to be sold and money split.
	Ester R. Preston bought farm at public sale, however, she died and property went to Joseph P. Culter.
DS 2/230	William J. Preston received property from Joseph Preston.
4/28/1865	\$1500
218 Acres	
B 9/108	Will of William Preston (died 1839)
	Executor Joseph Preston
	"It is also my will that my widow Mary Preston have and enjoy peaceably the parlor, the room we sleep in and the room over the parlor together with full priveledge for her own use also of the kitchen to do her own work in and the sellar and pump..."
	Plus \$1000 and other household furniture



Leaves to Grandson William:  
Eight Day Clock  
Writing Desk  
Watch  
\$100 in money

Leaves to son Joseph ~~the~~ Plantation etc.

Deed 22/473      Joseph Preston of London Grove  
3/21/1801      Township  
218 acres      to  
William Preston of Octorara Hundred

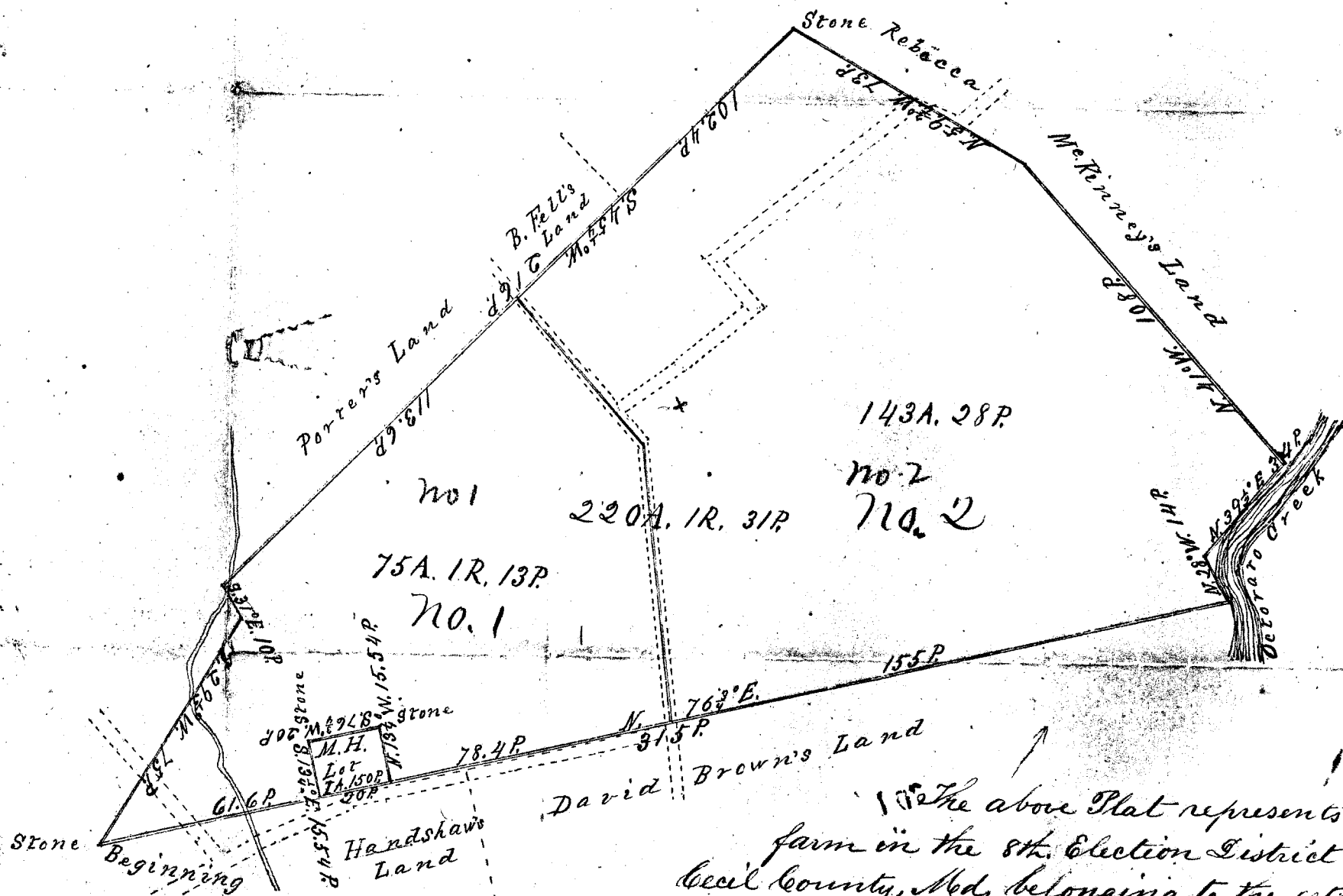
JB 2/110      Granted to Joseph Preston by  
JB 5/4      { Nathan Ewing - April 10, 1793  
Stephen and Rachel Dorsey - March 13, 1798  
Property containing 218 acres

bid therefor which they deeming inadequate in value refused to accept.

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CE-906  
In the next place your trustees offered at public sale to the highest bidder all of said tract of land or farm, as a whole, as surveyed and platted as aforesaid, subject to the reservations <sup>and encumbrances</sup> hereinafter stated, and sold the same to Esther R. Preston, she being then and there the highest bidder therefor at and for the sum of forty nine dollars per acre making in the aggregate the sum of ten thousand eight hundred and one dollars and fifty five cents (\$10801.<sup>55</sup>/<sub>100</sub>) and the said Esther R. Preston has agreed to comply with the terms of sale. And your trustees further report that when they offered said farm for sale as aforesaid they reserved the lot known as the Friends Meeting House lot as the same is laid out on said plat and named therein "M. H. lot"; also the rights of said Joseph R. Cutter as tenant <sup>or cropper</sup> of said farm; and also offered it subject to the right of Esther R. Preston to occupy the North West wing of the dwelling house therein during her life and to her right to have the same kept in repairs as provided in the decree in

this cause and <sup>they</sup> sold the said farm as aforesaid subject to said reservations and



David B. Preston

The above Plat represents a farm in the 8th Election District of Cecil County, Md. belonging to the estate of Wm. J. Preston, deceased, surveyed at the request of L. M. Haines and Wm. Evans, Esqs. trustees, on the 17th & 18th days of May 1886 by

CE-906

MARYLAND

CECIL CO

CONOWINGO

MD. / PA. Quad

4397

Rock Springs

BM 535

New Valley Sch

Porters Grove Ch

OCE-906

Richardson

BM 294

Conowingo (PO) Kilby Corner

Conowingo Sta

Rowlandsville

4396

42'30"

4395

4394

4393

4392

4391

40'

4391

(RISING SUN) 5763 11 NE

BRING SUN 33 MI  
N. LITTLE HILL, PA 33 MI

CREEK

OCTORARO

Zoar Ch

t Zoar

Conowingo Ch

BM 51



CONNELLY STONE HOUSE  
SOUTHERN ELEVATION  
CONOWINGO, MD.

CE-906

PBT

9/78



CONNELLY STONE HOUSE

PF-906

EASTERN ELEVATION

CONOWINGO, MD.

PBT

9/78





CONNELLY STONE HOUSE  
NORTHERN ELEVATION  
CONOWINGU, MD.

CE-906

PBT

9/78



CONNELLY STONE HOUSE

INTERIOR CUPBOARD

NR

ROCK SPRINGS, MD

8/78

PBT

CE-906



Cinnerly Stone Farmhouse

CE. 906

NORTH PARLOR MANTEL

NO PORTER'S GROVE, MD.

PBT 7/78



CONNELLY STONE HOUSE  
BRICK ~~STONE~~ <sup>SMOKE</sup> HOUSE

CE-906

CONOWINGO, MD.

PBT 9/78

EASTERN ELEVATION

PBT

9/78





CONNELLY STONE HOUSE

CE-906

BRICK SMOKE HOUSE

CONOWINGO, MD.

PBT 9/78

SOUTHERN ELEV.

PBT

9/78